

GREAT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Tey on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7.30pm. Present: Cllr Warnes, Cllr Frances, Cllr Hill, Cllr Frost, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Bartleet, Cllr Fairs and Clerk Adele Warnes. Cllr William Sunnucks also attended. 3 members of the public also attended.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Barber. Apology accepted.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the last parish council meeting of Tuesday 14th January 2025 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman in evidence.

4. **ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES IF NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE:**

250101– Hedging on junction of Chappel Road. Refer to ECC and ask Highways to action.

240408 – UKPN request for lease agreement. Ongoing. Has been referred to energy adviser for review.

The meeting was suspended at 7.35pm

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS:**

- Concern raised over the closure of The Street and impact on residents. Cllr Warnes explained that the closure was necessary to install new drainage but advised that the work was being carried out in 4 phases to minimise the impact for residents.
- For the period of the road closure, it was noted that construction traffic would need to use the Chappel/Earls Colne Road junction to access the New Barn Road development which is not ideal as impacted by the hedging on A/P250101
- A resident asked the Parish council to support their comments regarding an application for a certificate of lawful development (250084). This was to provide a new access point to the site. Whilst the resident acknowledged that a formal objection could not be raised, they stated that the PC can comment if they think the application is incomplete. It was noted that 3 previous planning applications had been refused including the proposal for a new access point. There is concern that, if granted, it may be a pre-cursor to a further application to develop the site. Councillors agreed to comment at agenda item 7 (Planning matters)
- A resident had looked at the highway's issues reported on the ECC site show 50 logged incidents for the Parish with a further 68 for Moor Road.

The meeting was resumed at 7.50pm

6. **WARD AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS (IF PRESENT):**

Report from Councillor William Sunnucks

- Wakes Colne have created a list of all their highway's issues and prioritised them for submission to Cllr Barber. Is this something that Great Tey should consider?
- Current issues for CCC
 - the budget does not balance.
 - Local government reform with the cancellation of ECC elections
 - 90% complaints received relate to potholes.

The local plan shows an allocation of 11,000 new homes to Colchester and an independent consultant has been engaged to produce a feasibility report which will be discussed on 17th Feb. A consultation period will then follow to invite views but it is probable that the numbers will not change including the allocation of 2500 homes for Marks Tey and 125 houses for Great Tey. The key message is that if there must be 125 houses for Great Tey then it must work for the village. Therefore, the Parish council should work with residents to list all the things that are needed in the Village to support the impact of the additional housing and ensure they get the S106 monies to make them happen. It is disappointing to note that a lack of infrastructure is not seen as a major contributory factor when considering the local plan allocations. Furthermore, the development of Middlewick is now out of the equation and the

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government has indicated the need for taking houses out of the cities and into the countryside; hence the big increase in the numbers.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS:** Application 250084 for a certificate of lawful development was discussed in response to a resident's concerns raised during public questions. After much discussion about the proposed new access and the existing site, it was agreed to send a general observation to the planning department advising that the Parish council views had not changed from those expressed in the 3 previous planning applications. The clerk was duly instructed to make that comment to the Planning authority.
8. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:** Total payments for approval as detailed in the agenda = £577.20. Plus, a late payment submission of £172.80 of which £28.60 is VAT. This gives a total submission for approval of £750.00.
 - The clerk's salary - £577.20 of which £115.60 is HMRC.
 - HMRC - £115.60 (PAYE)
 - Guildhall services - £172.80 of which £28.80 is VAT.

The resultant balance, after all payments are made is the Community account -£724.75 and business account £37,718.75. Approval was given to transfer £750 from the business account to the community to facilitate the payments being made from the community account.

- Locality fund – Grant to purchase table tennis table. All agreed that the YAC would purchase the table and present the receipt to the Parish council so that the funding could be claimed from the locality fund. The YAC would then be reimbursed.
9. **BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.** 25/26 draft budget was presented and agreed in principle by a majority vote subject to changes. These were: -
 - An increase in establishment spend to incorporate a revised spend for training from £400 to £1500.00.
 - S137 (grants and subsidies) to be increased to a total amount of £4000.00 with a general line for donations of £2250.00 to allow for greater flexibility. Following discussion and a majority vote by councillors, it was agreed to make specific donations to the PCC of £500.00, R&A of £1000.00 and £250 to the children's allotment for public liability insurance. These would be listed separately.
 - Maintenance to include an allocation of £2400.00 for maintenance contract.

The Clerk was requested to make the changes and send the revised budget to the Parish council for final sign off at the March meeting. **A/P 250201 – Clerk**

10. HFRG.

- Agricultural removal of hedging to the south side of recreation ground. A/P240802 refers. Ongoing
 - Consideration of maintenance contract for play equipment. A/P241003 refers. Ongoing
11. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE ISSUES:** The items listed on the ROSPA report had been completed by the handyman although it was advised that a new toddler swing seat was needed in the small play area. The handyman will obtain a quote for this work to be carried out. The small bin had not yet been removed but was on the list for action. This also applied to the tidy up of the boundary fencing. It was reported that the handyman had indicated his interest in continuing with the maintenance contract in 25/26. **A/P250202 – Clerk to follow through**
 12. **DEFIB TRAINING.** The clerk had obtained 3 quotes which would provide a half day on site training for up to 12 people. These were £629.00, £353.00, and £1035.00. Another potential solution was put forward by a member of the public who offered to follow through on behalf of the Parish council. All agreed to this and the clerk to report at the next meeting.

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13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- Need to think about dates for the Annual litter pick.
- S106 spend. The Parish council should think about the development of a Parish infrastructure spend plan to identify key priorities for village.
- April Parish council deferred from 8th April to 15th April due to absence of clerk. All agreed to the revised date.

14. PERSONNEL MATTER – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

- Salary discussions – Village Hall employees. All agreed to the proposed changes effective from 1st April 2025.
- Consideration for approach to CCC re unspent S106 monies and allocation.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 9.20pm

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 11th March at 19.30pm in the Village Hall.